

## ***When Is A Smog Check Required?***

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Not all vehicles in California are required to get Smog Check inspections. Whether or not a vehicle needs a Smog Check depends, among other things, on its type and age. In addition, how *often* a vehicle must get a Smog Check depends on the area of the state in which it is registered.

### **Some Vehicles Are Completely Exempt**

State law exempts vehicles that are 30 or more model-years old from the Smog Check Program (Program). For example, in the year 2003, all 1974 and older model-year vehicles are exempt, and so on with each new calendar year.

The following types of vehicles are also completely exempt from the Program:

- Diesel-powered vehicles
- Motorcycles
- Vehicles powered exclusively by electricity
- Vehicles equipped with two-cylinder or two-cycle engines

### **Newer Vehicles are Excepted From Some Program Inspection Requirements**

Vehicles four model-years old and newer are not required to begin their *biennial* (every other year) Smog Check inspection cycle until they are five years old. For example, a 2003 model-year vehicle purchased new would not need to have a Smog Check until the year 2007. However, these vehicles must have a Smog Check inspection if they are sold or initially registered in California during that time.

### **How often is a Smog Check Required?**

In most urban and some rural areas of the state, a Smog Check inspection is required every other year as part of renewing a vehicle's registration with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). In these areas, a Smog Check inspection is also required whenever a vehicle is sold or initially registered in California.

However, in areas of the state where the air is cleaner, a Smog Check inspection is only required when a vehicle is sold or initially registered in California.

### **How Do I Know If My Vehicle Needs A Smog Check Inspection?**

First, you can determine the Smog Check area your vehicle is registered in by visiting the BAR Web site at [www.smogcheck.ca.gov](http://www.smogcheck.ca.gov) or by calling toll-free at 1-800-952-5210.

Second, look closely at your vehicle's registration renewal notice that you received in the mail from DMV. If it says *Smog Check Required*, then you'll need to have your vehicle inspected so that you can renew your vehicle's registration.

If you are selling a vehicle that is less than 30 model-years old, California law requires you to provide the buyer with proof that the vehicle has passed a Smog Check inspection within the preceding 90 days. To comply with the requirement, you should give the buyer a passing Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR) that was given to you by the Smog Check station when you had the vehicle inspected.

**\*Note:** all year designations refer to the model-year of the vehicle, as listed on the vehicle registration.